

**MORRIS AREA PARATRANSIT SYSTEM
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Via ZOOM (M. Putts)
September 3, 2021**

Members Present

Maria Isaza
Marc Molde
Matt Putts

Staff Present:

Christine Hellyer Director of Special Transportation
Marcy Merola, SR Transportation Mt. Olive
Pat Petrillo Aging
Diane Pezutti 5DAR
Grace Rhinesmith Jefferson DAR
Michelle Woehle Jefferson DAR

- I. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Christine Hellyer, and she announced the meeting is being recorded.

II. Approval of Minutes

April 9, 2021, and June 4, 2021

Motion: M.I. /M.P.

Staff Report- Christine Hellyer

*MAPS is currently operating their buses at 100% capacity since mid-July.
We hired an additional full-time driver, and another will start in September.
We were received approval to change one full-time driver position to two-part time positions, CDL's are required.*

The application for *SCDRTAP 2022* was re-submitted to *NJ Transit*.

The MAPS CAC Public Hearing was held on August 3, 2021.

*The TNC (Transportation Network Companies) grant for **on demand** shared ridership **contract** was awarded to Trans Options. We will work with a provider (Trans Options) who will then work with a transportation network company (Uber/Lyft).*

I am hopeful before the end of 2021 we will provide the first trips.

This is a pilot program with limited funding of \$40,000, \$20,000 pilot contract from NJ Transit and Morris County's match of \$20,000.

- ✓ *These rides are ambulatory.*
- ✓ *Trans Options will be the scheduler and arrange the pick-up and drop-off of passenger, using ride share companies. Uber/Lyft or taxi service will supply the service. The service area is*
- ✓ *They are also responsible for booking the ride, contacting the passenger, and communicating transportation details: time of pick-up, location, etc.*
- ✓ *MAPS will provide Trans Options with clients and their request, and that they can use their service.*
- ✓ *Trans Options will be responsible to pay the ride-share company monthly and Morris County will reimburse them including the administrative fee.*

MAPS drivers will continue to transport wheelchair accessible riders and move the others to this program.

Marcy asked why would clients use *Trans Options* instead of *MAPS*?

Christine: *Trans Options* will expand our services. They offer evening and week-end service. And during our peak busy time when we are fully booked, they can assist and provide on demand rides.

Is there a start date for *Trans Options*?

No, the contract has not been finalized.

The application for *SCDR TAP 2022* was re-submitted to *NJ Transit*.

The MAPS CAC Public Hearing was held on August 3, 2021.

I will also send out a survey monkey asking if you would prefer in person, or virtual meeting for *November 5, 2021*. And this is small committee, and we don't tend to have the public attend. The large conference allows us to social distance.

I am piloting a *hybrid* meeting for our *Advisory Council* meeting next week.

The *hybrid* will consist of one laptop on screen on wall, and one that I will talk to.

NJ TRANSIT

Isabel Rojas is on vacation, and I will request her to send us the NJ Transit report and include it with November's meeting invitation.

CHTP (Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan).

We are currently in discussion with *Rutgers* to complete this on behalf of *Morris County*. We have additional funding to support moving forward with plan. *Rutgers* did submit a plan to us, and hopefully it will begin in October. The dial-a rides will be contacted to obtain input from your riders and the CAC members.

- ✓ *2008 plan* was completed
- ✓ *2013 plan* was updated
- ✓ *2018 plan* was due. We decided because I just became *Director*, we did do small update, but we decided to do a complete overhaul. A big reason was because of many changes since 2008:
 - technology and players have changed
 - the way the *County* looks
 - change in *Census*
- ❖ Chat question: Is there a date scheduled for the transportation meeting?
- ❖ No, the contract has not been finalized.
- ❖ Because of technical problems someone thanked *Christine* for the *TNC* pilot program, because it is going to a huge asset, especially to persons with special needs, because of the flexibility of their service.

Christine replied although it was an inkling in her mind it was a group effort.

Maria asked in the future if the *TNC* pilot is successful it might be an expensive program. What ideas do you have for more funding? And will the *County* be matching dollars again?

Christine: This pilot program has already been operating in *Essex* and *Sussex County*.

We are hopeful that *NJ Transit* will continue to fund if other *Counties* have success.

I do have additional funding for 2022 and 2023 to match.

There are ways of moving funding around with other grants.

- ❖ *Diane* asked if they (*TNC*) are limited to those that don't need wheelchair lifts?
- ❖ Yes, currently ambulatory only currently. I hope to expand using *Life Ride* they do on demand wheelchair accessibility service.
- ❖ *Maria* are the types of rides limited.

We didn't get there yet. I want to prioritize what *MAPS* can't provide: weekends, evenings, and medical appointments and specialists out of *County*. We will refer to *Atlantic Private Care* first.

Adjournment: 10:28am

Motion: M.I./M.P.

Next meeting: November 5, 2021